

November 30, 1948.

Dr. A. P. McIlroy,
Institute of Pathology,
Western Pennsylvania Hospital,
Pittsburgh.

Dear Dr. McIlroy,

Your paper in J. Bact. on the influence of sodium acetate on dissociation in a streptococcus is of such great interest in bacterial genetics that I hope you will be willing to respond to my request for further information on one point.

On p. 552 you refer to an experiment in which 2 S cells were introduced into acetate broth heavily seeded with M. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a more detailed account, as this seems to be the foundation stone of your argument for direct adaptation. Also, please send me a reprint.

Do you intend to pursue studies on the population dynamics of the M-S transformation? I am impressed with the possibility that the type of analysis which Preer has done on Paramecium (see Genetics, 1948 or Cold Spr. Harbor Symp. 1946) might illuminate the mechanism here.

With best regards for Dr. Mellon,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics